

Hobbies

Some coin conventioners express doubts about Detroit

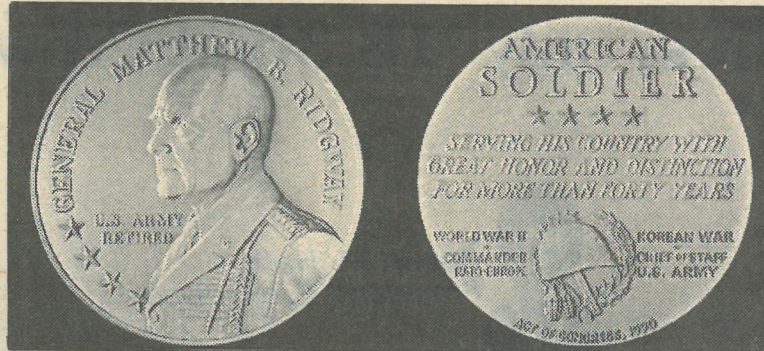
By Roger Boye

A major coin convention probably will go on as scheduled in Detroit despite criticism from some dealers that the city is unsafe because of crime.

J. H. Cline, who sells rare coins from Palm Harbor, Fla., has called on the American Numismatic Association to move its 1994 "World's Fair of Money" to another city to "help the hobby" and "maybe save some lives." The ANA's annual summer show—which was in suburban Rosemont last August—could attract thousands of collectors to the "Motor City."

By Jan. 8, Cline had received "well in excess of 200 signatures" of people opposed to a Detroit ANA convention, according to his wife, Vicki. But some observers say Cline needs to look at both sides of the coin.

"It may strike you as odd that



A new bronze medal honors retired Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

anyone living in an arsenal like Florida should be concerned about crime in Detroit," wrote Detroit News columnist Jon Pepper. "Does he [Cline] realize that Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Atlanta rank first, second and third in burglarizing the average guy and that Detroit is a measly 38th?"

The ANA Board of Governors selects convention sites, and it's "always possible the board could

vote for a change," said ANA spokesman Stephen Bobbitt. But he added that "it looks fairly solid" that the convention will go on as scheduled in Detroit.

Robert J. Leuver, the ANA executive director, wrote in a Dec. 17 Numismatic News column that the organization "had a good show in Detroit in 1984, and there's little to indicate we won't have a similar event in 1994." He added that Detroit "is

one of those cities" with an image that "makes some people balk at visiting."

Meanwhile, the ANA "World's Fair of Money" is slated to return to Rosemont in 1999. So far, the village's crime rate hasn't become an issue with the nation's coin dealers.

Again this year, the American Numismatic Association is offering several scholarships for teen-agers to attend the organization's annual summer conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Participants will study topics such as coin grading or ancient money from July 11 to 17. Each scholarship pays for tuition, room, board and round-trip airfare to Colorado, a package worth hundreds of dollars.

For more information, write to the ANA Educational Services Department, 818 N. Cascade

Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903. Applicants must be between ages 13 and 17 on Jan. 1, and deadline for completed applications is April 15.

Uncle Sam is selling to collectors bronze medals that depict retired Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, who served as chief of staff of the U.S. Army during a 40-year military career.

Each medal duplicates a Congressional Gold Medal that Ridgway received last year for "serving his country with great honor and distinction." A three-inch bronze medal costs \$21 and the 1½-inch size—which has a much smaller surface area—is \$2.25.

To order, send a check or money order to the United States Mint, Order Processing Branch, 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706.